

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 063018

17

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 NIC-01 AID-20 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06

SIL-01 /186 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:PWKRIEBEL:DPW

APPROVED BY P - MR. SISCO

EA -MR. HUMMEL

S/S - MR. MILLER

----- 004887

R 290039Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063018

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJ: ROK AMBASSADOR CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL
AFFAIRS

SUMMARY: ROK AMBASSADOR HAHM PYONG CHOON MADE A COURTESY
CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY SISCO MARCH 25 AT 4 PM. DIRECTOR
OF KOREAN AFFAIRS AND ROK POLITICAL COUNSELOR KIM TAE
ZHEE WERE ALSO PRESENT. CONVERSATION FOCUSED PRINCIPALLY
ON NORTH KOREAN ATTITUDES, THE UN AND THE INTERNAL POLITI-
CAL SITUATION IN THE ROK

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 063018

1. NORTH KOAN ATTITUDES. HAHM SAID THE SOUTH-NORTH

TALKS HAD BEEN A DISAPPOINTMENT, THAT IT HAD BECOME CLEAR THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN NORTH KOREA'S COMMITMENT TO "NATIONAL REVOLUTION" IN THE SOUTH. HE CONTRASTED THE APPROACH OF THE TWO SIDES IN FAMILIAR TERMS; THAT THE SOUTH WANTED TO DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NORTH BASED ON SUCCESSIVE STEPS OF A NON-POLITICAL NATURE WHILE THE NORTH WANTED IMMEDIATE AGREEMENT ON BROAD PRINCIPLES FOR THE CONDUCT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM. HAHM COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH WE HAD LITTLE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NORTH IT APPEARS THAT HARD LINERS WERE COMING TO POWER. IN RESPONSE TO THE UNDER SECRETARY'S QUESTION AS TO WHY THIS WAS SO, HAHM SAID THE NORTH KOANS APPARENTLY HAD CONCLUDED THAT THEIR EXPERIMENT WITH A PEACE OFFENSIVE HAD NOT BEEN PRODUCTIVE.

2. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF THE NORTH KOREAN PROPOSAL TO THE UNITED STATES FOR DIRECT NEGOTIATION. HAHM WAS CONVINCED THAT THE NORTH KOREANS INTENDED TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE ROK AND US AND THAT THE NORTH WAS PREPARING ITS POSITION FOR THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS FALL. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT IT WAS A WARNING TO THE USSR AND PRC THAT THESE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT TRY TO TALK TO THE US OVER THE NORTH'S HEAD.

3. UNITED NATIONS. SISCO SAID IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO AVOID A DEBATE IF THIS WERE POSSIBLE. HE COMMENTED THAT WE HAD NOTED SOME INTEREST IN THE IDEA OF A PRE-EMPTIVE MOVE ON THE PART OF SUPPORTERS OF THE ROK. IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT SUCH A MOVE COULD SOMETIMES PROVIDE A TACTICAL ADVANTAGE BUT NOT WHEN THE SUBSTANTIVE POSITION WAS IN JEOPARDY. HE THOUGHT THESE VIEWS APPLIED TO THE PRESENT SITUATION. HE NOTED THAT PROGRESS IN THE SOUTH-NORTH TALKS COULD BE HELPFUL IN CONTROLLING THE SITUATION IN NEW YORK. HE SAID WE WOULD BE CONSULTING CLOSELY WITH THE ROKG ON THE WHOLE QUESTION. HAHM COMMENTED THAT IT WAS THE WISH OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO GET THE KOREAN QUESTION OUT OF THE UN IN SO FAR AS POSSIBLE.

4. ROK DOMESTIC SITUATION. HAHM OF HIS OWN ACCORD LAUNCHED INTO AN EXTENDED APOLOGY FOR THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 063018

MENT'S TIGHTENING OF INTERNAL CONTROL. HE SAID THE POPULACE WAS RESTIVE BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE NORTH'S INTENTION AND BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN CAUSED BY THE ENERGY CRISES. HE NOTED THAT RAPID ECONOMIC GROWTH BROUGHT SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND THAT THE RELATIVE INCREASE IN LIVING STANDARDS HAD FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THESE. HE ADDED THAT THE POSITION OF INTELLECTUALS IN KOREAN SOCIETY BOTH IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC REWARD AND PRESTIGE HAD

SLIPPED AND THAT THIS TO A CONSIDERABLE EXTENT EXPLAINED THEIR UNHAPPINESS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

5. HE DEVELOPED AT SOME LENGTH THE POSITION OF CHRISTIAN GROUPS IN KOREA. HE NOTED THAT MODERNIZATION HAD COME TO A CONSERABLE EXTENT THROUGH THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND THAT CHRISTIANS, PARTICULARLY CLERGY, HAD HELD A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE POLITICAL POWER IN THE EARLY POST-WORLD WAR II DAYS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT CHRISTIANS CONSTITUTED LESS THAN 0 OF THE POPULATION AND SAID IN ESSENCE THAT IF CHRISTIAN GROUPS IN KOREA APPEAR TO SET THEMSELVES AGAINST THE VIEWS AND OUTLOOK OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE THEY WOULD BE SETTING THE STAGE FOR A DISASTROUS INTERNAL BEACTION. HE CHARGED THAT SOME KOREAN CHRISTIANS WERE APPEALING TO AMERICAN CHURCHES TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE US

GOVERNMENT TO ACT AGAINST THE ROKG. HE SAID THEY RISK DESTROYING THE KOREAN CHURCH IN KOREA BY POLITICIZING IT. WHEN ASKED BY SISCO HOW REAL THIS DANGER WAS, RANARD SAID HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THE AMBASSADOR. HE THOUGHT THAT EVIDENCE WAS CLEAR THAT THE INDIGENOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCH WAS ACTING FROM A KOREAN MOTIVATION AND WAS FAR OUT IN FRONT OF FOREIGN MISSIONARY GROUPS.

6. HAHM IN AN EMOTIONAL REJOINDER SAID THAT WHILE AMERICAN CHRISTIANS COULD SHOW THEIR CONCERN ABOUT KOREA AS FELLOW CHRISTIANS, IF IT CAME TO CRITICISM BY THE USG OR THE US CONGRESS, THIS WOULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF ANTI-CHRISTIANS IN THE ROK. IN AN ASIDE HE NOTED THAT HE HIMSELF AS A CHRISTIAN AND AS THE SON OF A PROMINENT KOREAN CLERGYMAN AND ONE TIME VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HAD BEEN BITTERLY CRITICIZED BY THE CHURCH GROUPS FOR HIS SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 063018

7. ECONOMIC MATTERS. IN A GENERAL REVIEW OF KOREA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION HAHM ARGUED THAT KOREA NEEDED SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FROM THE US IN THE PURCHASE OF FOOD AND RAW MATERIALS AND SCRAP IRON TO ENABLE IT TO MOVE FROM THE POSITION OF AID RECIPIENT TO FULL FLEDGED ADING PARTNER. HE NOTED THAT EXPORTS WERE NOT AS MUCH A PROBLEM AS WAS THE PURCHASE OF MATERIALS WHICH KOREA NEEDED. HE COMMENTED SPECIFICALLY ON THE SURCHARGE OF \$12 A TON WHICH US SHIPPERS INTEND TO PLACE ON SHIPMENTS TO KOREA AND SAID THIS WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY RAISE THE PRICE OF IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES.

COMMENT: WE HAVE REPORTED HAHM'S COMMENTS ON ROK DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS AT SOME LENGTH BECAUSE THEY APPARENTLY RE-

FLECT THE LINE HE IS TAKING WITH AMERICAN GROUPS AND
BECAUSE WE GATHER THESE COMMENTS REFLECT HIS REACTION TO
LETTERS AND COMMENTS HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING FROM THE
AMERICAN MEDIA, ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND THE CONGRESS.
KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, NATIONAL UNIFICATION, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE063018
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PWKRIEBEL:DPW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740069-0125
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974033/aaaaacvl.tel
Line Count: 174
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK AMBASSADOR CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, (HAHM PYONG-CHOON)
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005